

All the Dirt Newsletter

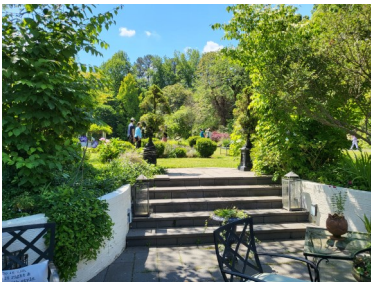
Volume 2, Issue 2

Summer 2023

Hillsborough Garden Club

"Untamed. Unexpected. Unbelievable!"

The title of the tour says it all! The gardens were a lovely mix of styles. The mature, groomed gardens were just gorgeous. Some of the fan favorites however were the UNTAMED ones! Our gardens are just an extension of our personalities, and our guests commented on how beautiful and diverse they were. The garden "Roots and Wings" had traditional raised beds with vertical trellises to increase the



square footage. Then the garden "Red Barn Productions" had raised beds using *hugelkultur* - decaying wood debris and other compostable plant material. Both worked and were stunning!

We heard nothing but wonderful comments from the guests. They said how thrilled they were on the number of gardens on the tour. The guests also said that the beauty and variety of the gardens was UNEXPECTED. We had small gardens and large ones. We had sunny ones and shade ones. Guests loved how they were able to gather ideas about gardening from each and every garden!



The weather was perfect. The ticket sales were strong. The sponsors were generous. It was a pleasure having artists in the gardens. Fittingly, the Orange County Beekeepers Association sold honey and pollinator plants at the ticket pickup site. The sales from the bird baths, bird houses, totes, terrariums and gloves were a bonus. For every bluebird house sold, one will be donated to the town of Hillsborough - 39 birdhouses!

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar of Events

Sat., June 3, 2023

10 am to 1 pm

Free Open Gardens

Rain or Shine, details on pg. 3

promote insect biodiversity in the garden and in your home landscape.

Potluck - watch for sign-up email

Thurs., June 8, 2023

5 pm social

5:30 pm meeting

Hillsborough United Methodist Church

130 W. Tryon Street

Program: Gardening for Joy and Abundance

Christine Liloia, habitat gardens curator at the NC Botanical Gardens, will discuss how to

Sat., June 17, 2023

8 am to 1 pm

Backyard Butterflies Annual Open House and Plant Swap

Volunteers needed, see pg. 5

Sat., June 24, 2023

9 am to 3 pm

In-town Bee Photo Scavenger Hunt

Details on pg. 3

2023 HGC Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce our selections for the HGC Scholarships. We are delighted to award 3 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the amount of \$750 apiece.

Pearce Abbygate from Cedar Ridge High is interested in studying environmental science to learn how humans have impacted our ecosystems.

Emily Ivey from Orange High plans to study horticulture at NC State.

Paige Christensen from Eno River Academy believes that "caring for a garden connects people more to the Earth and fosters appreciation for its resources."

We are also contributing \$575 to the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks & Recreation to send a high school student to the NCSU Resource Conservation Workshop. **Griffin**

Clark is a rising senior at Orange High and is "passionate about sharing what he learns about wildlife and natural resource conservation."

We are also contributing \$600 for the creation of a Pollinator Garden with plant markers at Blackwood Farm Park, which reopened on May 19.

The 4H Camp Scholarship Fund through the NC Cooperative Extension will receive \$600, as well as Ramblerill Farm. The farm does horticultural and forest therapy and educational

programming on a variety of gardening topics. Our money will provide therapy for those who need economic help as well as for the development of educational programs at their certified organic farm.

Our Garden Club should be very proud that we are able to contribute to these educational programs within our area to a much greater extent than we have ever done so. We have raised our scholarship amount from \$250 to \$750. And we have included three high schools -not just two. We are now able to contribute to other groups as well as our high school scholarships. This is due to our increased revenues from our plant sale and garden tour.

**"All of you
deserve a
very big pat
on the back
for all your
good work!"**

Diff Whitmore,
Scholarship
Committee Chair

Garden Tour Continued

(Continued from page 1)

We budgeted \$11,000 to raise on the tour. We had a target goal of \$15,000. The total amount raised from the tour was over \$17,500, with expenses of \$2,015. UNBELIEVABLE!

We cannot thank the garden owners enough for allowing 380 plus strangers to walk through their gardens

where they put in SUCH hard work!! I have had several garden owners thank me for allowing them to be a part of the tour. They really enjoyed showing off their hard work and answering questions about their gardens. One garden owner said it was like bragging on his children.

The day and the tour were a huge success. Thank you to everyone who shared their garden, volunteered at a garden and went on the tour. It was a fun day.

Valerie Blettner

Chair, Hillsborough Garden Tour 2023

"Untamed.
Unexpected.
Unbelievable!"



Pollinator Week June 19-25, 2023



Wildflower of the Year
Buttonbush,
*Cephalanthus
occidentalis*

During June 19-25, Hillsborough will join other communities to celebrate National Pollinator Week. We will recognize Hillsborough as the 35th Bee City USA! We will also reach out to our community through several activities.

Look for the Pollinator Week sign June 19-25 on S. Churton St. and proclamations for the observance of Pollinator Week by Mayor Jenn Weaver and Governor Roy Cooper. Some businesses in town may have special pollinator-themed product promotions or decorations.

Celebration of Pollinator Week in Hillsborough is sponsored by the HGC Bee City Committee, with the support of the Town Tree Board. The Committee hopes to sponsor other educational opportunities for our neighbors about the importance of insect and animal pollinators to our food supply and to

the beautiful flowering plants we all enjoy.

The Bee City Committee needs people! If you have graphic arts skills, creative activity skills, writing ability, love to interact with people about plants and want to learn more about pollinators, we can use your energy and active participation. Contact Chair Sarah Meadows, smeadow100@gmail.com.

Free Wildflower of the Year Seeds

Buttonbush seeds from the NC Botanical Garden will be available at Gro Smart, Carlisle & Linney Vintage Jewelry, Margaret Lane Gallery and at the Library.

Free Open Gardens

10 am-1 pm

Saturday June 3

Rain or Shine

Two gardens in Forest Ridge:

1. Penny Rand's Windsong Garden, 1406 Spring Overlook Lane
2. Michael Barrett's B3 vegetable and decorative plant garden, 1237 Clandon Square Rd.

See details at

www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org.

In-town Bee Photo Scavenger Hunt

Saturday June 24
9 am-3 pm

Family teams or individual contestants will take photos of cute bee signs in the windows of designated "Bee Stations," businesses and other locations throughout the community. Contestants who submit the required minimum number of photos will be entered into a drawing for prizes. For details and maps, see www.hillsboroughgardenclub.org.

7th Annual Open House & Plant Sale

- Plant Swap
- Free Plant Table
- Butterfly & Native Plant Education
- Tour Butterfly Habitat
- Keystone & Native Plants Sale

1507 US HWY 70A E
Hillsborough
June 17, 8 am - 1 pm

Backyard Butterflies Open House

Backyard Butterflies is hosting their Annual Open House and Plant Swap on June 17th. Enjoy their beautiful garden where you will see many native host and nectar plants in action. Volunteers are also needed for the day.

Sign up at:

<https://t.ly/MV5P>

Volunteers are needed to provide Leps and plant education, manage the plant swap and parking. All knowledge and skill levels welcome!

Each volunteer position is a 3-hour shift so that you can also attend the event. Benefits include a free Backyard Butterflies T-shirt, lunch, and volunteer discount on the purchase of plants.

New Officers and Board Members

New members of the Board of Directors and new officers were installed at the May meeting. We welcome the following as officers and thank them for their service:

- Tammy Dorfman, President
- Bonnie Maddox, Vice President
- Barb Guidos, Treasurer
- Sherry Appel, Secretary

Also installed as new Board members were

Carolyn Bass, Barb Guidos, Pat O'Reilly, and Johanna Wilson. They join Valerie Blettner, Ann S. Burton, Lynn Odom, and Penny Rand to fill out the Board.

Thank you, Ladies!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thanks to Board Members

The terms of three Board members are ending this month, and we owe them all a huge thank you for all they've contributed to the Club.

Ann Sebesan has served on the Board since 2018, most recently as Vice President. She chairs the Program Committee, where she helped develop strong monthly programs, even during tough Covid years. Currently, she is working to revive the Soltys Place garden therapy project. She has also been a program leader, most recently guiding members to favorite spots in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, where she is a docent.

Sarah Meadows was first elected to the Board in 2017. She served as secretary for two years, and most recently assisted the Board as parliamentarian. She also edited the Yearbook for two years. As chair of

the Environmental Stewardship Committee, she has worked to make Hillsborough a national Bee City, while also chairing the Club's Bee City USA Subcommittee and Pollinator Gardens. During National Pollinator Week, she and other HGC members sponsor bee hunts and provide information to area residents on the best plants to attract and support pollinators.

Beverly DeMao has served one term on the Board and was treasurer of the Club. She chaired the Finance Committee and managed the membership dues and roster, as well as the banking accounts. Through her leadership, the Club now has funded a one-year reserve in case of any future emergencies.

All of these Board members have also participated in numerous other volunteer activities, including working on

the plant sales, garden tours, holiday decorating, and special events, as well as other Club projects. A giant shout out and thanks to them for all they have accomplished for the Club!



Ann Sebesan



Sarah Meadows



Beverly DeMao

*A
Big
Thank
You!*

Sneak Peak at 2023-24 Programs



The Programming Committee, made up of Sherry Appel, Bonnie Maddux, Ann Sebesan and Tammy Dorfman, are working on programs for the next club year. The full calendar will be available later this summer but here's a quick sneak peek at a few of the programs we're organizing.

We'll kick off the year with a Fall Flower Fling, arranging flowers from our own gardens in fun and unexpected cups, mugs, vases. Start looking for unique and out-of-the-ordinary containers for your arrangement.

Dale Batchelor, Linda Bell, and Preston Montague will share their expertise in container gardening, native plants in the landscape and adapting gardens to climate change.

And we'll have a few pop-ups along the way, including a field trip to see Debbie Roos' garden, bird bath making with Valerie and growing tulips the easy way with Tammy.



Blackwood Farm Park



Blackwood Farm Park opened its gates again May 19 after an extensive renovation. The HGC will be reflected on the Donor Sign.

Without our monetary support and donations, the environmental outdoor learning trail would not have come to fruition. The Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation is most grateful to our club for partnering with them on this endeavor!



We also donated funds for a Discovery Trail wheelchair that has the club logo embroidered on the back – visible to all. We sponsored the SOILS station along this trail as well.

The park is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 8 pm. Dogs are allowed on leash. The farmhouse on the property was built in 1827.

The park has four miles of hiking trails and an interactive educational trail. Fishing is available on the small pond.

Picnic shelters can be

rented online. The largest shelter doubles as an extra sound stage. A covered amphitheater is also available for rent.

The 152 acres of land has open fields and woodlands with an active wildlife population. The park will be enjoyed by all and is a special addition to the Orange County parks system.

Address

4215 NC 86 South
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Hillsborough Garden Club

President: Tammy Dorfman
 Vice President: Bonnie Maddox
 Secretary: Sherry Appel
 Treasurer: Barb Guidos
 Newsletter Editor: Lynn Odom

Club Motto: To preserve what is good. To grow what is good. To display what is good.

Conservation Pledge: I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet Earth and promise to promote education, so that we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife.

Affiliate of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. and National Garden Club, Inc.



www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org

History of the Club

The Garden Club has created and participated in several forms of tours. The early tours were known as Pilgrimages. The Pilgrimages began in 1936 and gave entry to the gardens of historic homes in town, a brief history of each home was included in the tour brochure.

Sites on the first tour were:

- ◆ The Colonial Inn
- ◆ Masonic Lodge
- ◆ Parks-Richmond House (Teardrop Inn)
- ◆ Burnside
- ◆ St. Matthews Church
- ◆ Regulators Monument
- ◆ Ayr Mount
- ◆ J. L. Conners House
- ◆ American Legion Building (Whitted House)
- ◆ Presbyterian Church
- ◆ Nash-Hooper House
- ◆ First Baptist Church
- ◆ Methodist Church
- ◆ Old Courthouse (1845)
- ◆ Moorefields
- ◆ Lloyd Home (Nash Law Office)



- ◆ Gen. Johnston's Headquarters (Dickson House)

In 1949, the "Colonial Hillsboro" Pilgrimage and Flower Show marked the first time that a flower show was combined with a state pilgrimage. Homes were opened with flower arrangements displayed within and exhibits held at the American Legion Hut.

A fee of \$1.50 covered the flower show and the entry into the homes. The Old Courthouse (1845) was open with the Colonial Weights and Measures on display. The show attracted approximately 1,000 people.